



Family Court News

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Indiana Team Attends Family Court Summit in Baltimore

Indiana was fortunate to be able to send a delegation to the ABA Summit on Family Courts, held in Baltimore on May 3-4, 2007. Our team was comprised of Judge Mary Harper of Porter County; Beth Kerns, St. Joseph County Family Court Coordinator; Dave Remondini, Deputy Executive Director of State Court Administration, and myself. The Summit was a great opportunity to exchange ideas with judges and court personnel from all over the country. In addition, former Family Court Consultant and current Monroe County Judge Francie Hill was part of a panel on evaluating family courts, so Indiana was very well represented. I am trying to get some extra copies of the materials from the ABA and will keep you posted.

Contact the Family Court Project

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Phase V Grant Applications are Available!

The long-awaited Phase V Family Court grant applications are now available. If you have colleagues in neighboring counties who have observed your success and are interested in starting a family court in their county, please spread the word. The application is available on the Family Court web site at www.in.gov/judiciary or by contacting me at the office. Applications are due August 1, 2007. I am available to help walk applicants through the process by phone, e-mail, or in person.

Tool Kit for Problem-Solving Courts

The National Center for State Courts has developed a "tool kit" for those interested in developing a problem-solving court, such as a drug court or mental health court. The tool kit was developed at the request of the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators, and it contains a blueprint for developing a problem-solving approach from the initial assessment stage through implementation and evaluation. This may be a good resource for those of you who already have a specialized court in place, as well as those who are interested in starting one. The tool kit is available online at www.ncsconline.org/d_research/Documents/ProbSolvJustTool-v16.pdf.

Resource Guide for Drug Courts

For those of you looking for funding sources for drug courts, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals has published a Resource Funding Guide, which is full of ideas for federal, state, and local funding sources. Check it out at www.nadcp.org/publications/ResourceFundingGuide1.pdf.